



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nikhil Mehta, or [nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov](mailto:nikhil.mehta@noaa.gov)  
727/824-5305, FAX 727/824-5308  
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

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## NOAA Fisheries Announces New Regulations for Dolphin Wahoo and Snapper-Grouper

The final rule implementing Amendment 7 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic and Amendment 33 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33) published on **December 28, 2015 (80 FR 80686)**. **Regulations will be effective on January 27, 2016.**

The management measures in Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33 address dolphin, wahoo, and snapper-grouper species lawfully harvested by recreational fishers in The Bahamas and brought into the U.S. federal waters.

The final rule will:

- Allow recreational fishermen to bring fillets of dolphin and wahoo from The Bahamas into the U.S. federal waters and update regulations that currently allow recreational fishermen to bring snapper-grouper fillets from The Bahamas into the U.S. federal waters.
- Specify two fillets are equivalent to one fish for dolphin, wahoo, and snapper-grouper species brought into the U.S. federal waters from The Bahamas.
- Require fishers to retain skin on the entire fillet of dolphin, wahoo, and snapper-grouper species.
- Require fishing gear to be stowed while transiting the U.S. federal waters from The Bahamas. A vessel carrying fillets of dolphin, wahoo, or snapper-grouper species lawfully harvested in Bahamian waters would not be allowed to stop in the U.S. federal waters during the transit.

- Require stamped and dated passports, as well as valid current Bahamian cruising and fishing permits to prove that the recreational fishers were in The Bahamas.
- Not allow recreationally caught dolphin, wahoo, or snapper-grouper from The Bahamas to be sold or purchased in the U.S.
- Not exempt recreational fishermen from any other Federal fishing regulations such as fishing seasons, recreational bag limits, size limits, and prohibited species.

## More Information

For more information on the final rule for Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 7 and Snapper-Grouper Amendment 33, please follow this link to the Frequently Asked Questions:

[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/s\\_atl/genetic/2015/dw7\\_sg33/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/genetic/2015/dw7_sg33/index.html)